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Israel

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Choking Warning Labeling Required 2007

Approved by:

Chris Rittgers, U.S. Embassy, Cairo
Cairo

Prepared by:

Yossi Barak

Report Highlights:

On 18 September 2006 new regulations regarding choking warning labeling were announced by the Food Control Service with the Ministry of Health. The new regulations will become into effect on 18 March, 2007.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Tel Aviv [IS1]
[IS]

The Food Control Service with the Ministry of Health published the following notification regarding "Choking Warning Labeling" requirements:

**State of Israel
Ministry of Health
Public Health Services
Food & Nutrition Services
Food Control Service**

Notice to Manufacturers, Importers & Marketers of Edible Foodstuffs

On 18 September 2006 regulation list 6519 regarding public health (foodstuffs) (choking warning labeling) was announced, which will come into effect on 18 March 2007. The regulation will not apply to prepackaged foodstuffs packed before 18 September 2006, which will only be subject to the new regulations from 18 September 2007.

The regulations state that a warning must be marked in both Hebrew and Arabic on the following products intended for retail sale: nuts and seeds, with or without shells, popcorn, dried corn kernels for popcorn, spreads containing fragments of shelled nuts and sausages.

When these foodstuffs are sold by weight (not pre-packaged), the warning must be prominently and visibly displayed on an adhesive label attached to the packaging or alternatively printed on the packaging itself.

The warning must also be included in advertisements for the aforementioned foodstuffs.

The detailed translated regulations are presented in the following Annex.

Annex

Public Health Regulations (Food) (Precautionary Labeling re Danger of Choking) 5766 – 2006¹

According to my authority under Article 3-a of the Public Health Ordinance (Food) (New Version), 5743 – 1983 (hereafter - "the Ordinance"), and the authority of the Director General of the Ministry of Health under Article 3 of the Ordinance, which I have assumed with respect to Regulation 5 under Article 34 of the Basic Law: The Government, and with the authorization of the Labor, Welfare and Health Committee of the Knesset, I create the following regulations:

Definitions

1. In these Regulations –
 - "pulses" – legumes such as soy beans, peas, chick peas and cow peas (ful) in their dry form;
 - "prepackaged food" – food packaged by a processor for sale to consumers;
 - "food in bulk" – food that is not prepackaged;
 - "spreads" – fat-based spreads that contain pieces of shelled seeds or nuts;
 - "nuts and seeds" – various types of seeds such as watermelon, pumpkin and sunflower seeds, and nuts such as pistachios, macadamia, cashew, hazel nuts, pecans, Brazil nuts, groundnuts (peanuts), excluding coconuts;
 - "advertising" – advertising, whether oral, written, printed, or by electronic means, directed at or available to the public, except radio advertising;
 - "marketing" – transfer to another by all means of transfer.

**Obligation to
print a warning
when selling
seeds and others**

2. (a) No person will either manufacture, package, sell, import or store pulses, seeds and nuts, popcorn, and popping corn, as well as prepackaged spreads for direct retail sale unless the following is printed on the packaging:

"Warning: Danger of choking for children under the age of 5 years.", framed so as to catch the eye of the consumer, in clear, legible, black lettering on a white background. The letters will be of a size no less than two-thirds that of the letters indicating the name of the food.
- (b) A warning in the Arabic language, similar to that of sub-regulation (a) will be printed on the said packaging.

¹ Kovetz Takanot (KT) 6519, 5766 – 18.09.2006), page 1203.

- Obligation to print a warning on sausages for sale** 3. (a) No person will either manufacture, package, sell, import or store prepackaged sausages for retail sale unless the package is marked: "Attention! For children under 5 years of age, the sausage should be cut lengthwise, in thin strips (not in rounds)", framed so as to catch the eye of the consumer in clear, legible, black lettering on a white background. The letters will be of a size no less than two-thirds that of the letters indicating the name of the food.
- (b) A warning in the Arabic language, similar to that of sub-regulation (a) will be printed on the said packaging.
- Obligation to print warnings on food sold in bulk** 4. (a) With respect to food of the types set out in Regulations 2 and 3, that is sold in bulk, the warning designated there, according to the product, will be prominently displayed on a sign next to the food, in black letters no less than 16 points in size, on a white background.
- (b) Instead of displaying the warning on a sign as designated in sub-regulation (a), it may be printed on a sticker that the seller attaches to the food package, or imprinted directly on the packaging.
- Obligation to include a warning on advertisements** 5. (a) No person will advertise foods of the type described in regulations 2 and 3 unless the advertisement contains a warning as required in regulations 2 or 3, as the case may be, on a single line at the bottom of the advertisement.
- (b) The warning shall be in the language of the advertisement and in clear black lettering, the minimum size of which is 12 points, on a white background and enclosed in a black frame, the thickness of which shall be the same as the width of the letters in the warning.
- (c) The area of the entire warning shall be at least 5 percent of the area of the advertisement and the lettering shall occupy most of it.
- Preservation of all laws** 6. These regulations are designed to augment any existing laws, not to derogate there from.
- Entry into effect** 7. These regulations become effective six months from their day of publication, however with respect to prepackaged food that was prepared prior to the day of publication of these regulations, they will enter into effect one year from their day of publication.

13th of Elul 5766 (6 September, 2006).

Yakov Ben Yizri

Minister of Health